



WHITMAN COLLEGE



Glorious Galápagos

Darwin's Enchanted Isles Aboard *Santa Cruz II*

Accompanied by Dr. Patrick Spencer, the Grace F. Phillips Professor Of Geology

July 17 – 25, 2025

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

SAVOR the exclusivity of this **once-in-a-lifetime cruise through the pristine Galápagos Islands**, following in Charles Darwin's footsteps in these enchanted isles where visitors are strictly limited to protect its fragile ecosystems

LEARN from **Dr. Patrick Spencer**, Whitman's Grace F. Phillips Professor of Geology, as he shares his extensive knowledge of the islands' geology, ecology, and evolutionary history through engaging lectures and field discussions

ENCOUNTER **unique wildlife found nowhere else on Earth**, coming face to face with giant tortoises, marine iguanas, and playful sea lions, as blue-footed boobies and magnificent frigate birds soar overhead

JOIN the **Galápagos's most respected expert naturalist guides**, each with more than a decade of experience here, for up-close wildlife encounters as you hike, kayak, and *panga* ride through the archipelago

EXPLORE the **Galápagos's rugged, otherworldly landscapes**, from volcanic craters and lava fields to white-sand beaches and turquoise waters, each island harboring new surprises and unforgettable vistas

SNORKEL in a mesmerizing underwater world, swimming alongside tropical fish, graceful sea turtles, and curious sea lions, as you discover the extraordinary beauty of the **Galápagos Marine Reserve**

CRUISE aboard the state-of-the-art, 50-cabin **Santa Cruz II**, which was custom-built for Galápagos sailing, enjoying well-appointed cabins, gourmet cuisine, and attentive service

WITNESS conservation in action as you **learn about the ongoing efforts to protect the Galápagos's fragile ecosystems** and understand the critical importance of preserving this natural wonder for generations to come



WHITMAN COLLEGE

Dear Alumni and Friends of Whitman College,

Are you ready to explore the Galápagos as **Charles Darwin** famously did? Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime experience of one of the world's most pristine and well-preserved ecosystems, island treasures that changed how we view the miracle of life itself. You're invited on an exclusive eight-night expedition aboard the deluxe *Santa Cruz II*, uncovering Darwin's living laboratory that inspired his theory of evolution in the 1830s.

In this enchanted Pacific archipelago, part of Ecuador, the highest-rated local naturalist guides will lead you on exciting excursions. Each with more than 10 years of experience in the Galápagos, they'll facilitate up-close wildlife encounters via glass-bottom boats and other fascinating, innovative modes of exploration. Come face to face with creatures found nowhere else on Earth, from playful sea lions to giant tortoises. Marvel at the rugged, volcanic terrain that reveals the islands' fiery origins. Dive into crystal-clear waters teeming with tropical fish, penguins, and sea turtles.

We are thrilled that you'll enjoy this journey with the guidance of **Dr. Patrick Spencer**, Whitman's Grace F. Phillips Professor of Geology. Dr. Pat's extensive, on-the-ground knowledge of the Galápagos's geology, ecology, and evolutionary history will enrich your experience. Gain deeper insights into the powerful geological forces that shaped the islands and the remarkable adaptations that created species like Darwin's finches and marine iguanas. Dr. Pat's engaging lectures and field discussions will bring the islands' wonders to life.

With a strictly limited number of visitors permitted each year, this journey grants you extraordinary access to the Galápagos's fragile environment in a way that honors and respects native life. Experience these islands' raw beauty and understand the critical importance of safeguarding our planet's biodiversity. Witness firsthand the successful preservation of the Galápagos's ecosystems and ongoing efforts to protect these natural treasures.

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Dr. Patrick Spencer, the Grace F. Phillips Professor of Geology, has been teaching at Whitman College since 1984. Over his 40 years at Whitman, Pat has led numerous alumni trips, including two previous Galápagos expeditions. His expertise in the islands'

geology, ecology, and unique adaptations of endemic species stems from his intimate familiarity with the region and his academic background, which includes an M.S. in Geology from Western Washington University and a Ph.D. in Geological Sciences from the University of Washington.

Cruise aboard the elegant, 50-cabin *Santa Cruz II*, which was custom-built for sailing the Galápagos. Space is limited on this exclusive expedition. **Reserve your place now** by calling our tour operator Arrangements Abroad at (212) 514-8921. We hope you join this once-in-a-lifetime, behind-the-scenes journey to the Galápagos, a transformative experience that will change how you connect with the natural world.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dilworth Northam '91
Director of Alumni Relations
Whitman College

Activity Level:



Pace Level:



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels [here](#).

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Darwin's Enchanted Isles Aboard *Santa Cruz II*

July 17 – 25, 2025



THURSDAY, JULY 17: DEPARTURE* / ARRIVAL IN GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

Depart on a flight to **Guayaquil**. Upon arrival, transfer to the **Hotel del Parque Histórico Guayaquil**, a beautifully restored 19th-century property on the banks of the Daule River, for an overnight stay.

Depending on your arrival time, explore Santa Ana Hill, the picturesque neighborhood where the city began, offering a glimpse of what life was like in Guayaquil a century ago. A climb to the top unlocks panoramic views of Malecón 2000, the center of the city, as well as the Las Peñas neighborhood. Then visit Seminario Park, built as a memorial to the Venezuelan leader Simón Bolívar, to observe its slow-moving native iguanas. This evening, attend a welcome cocktail reception at the hotel.

**Depending on your departure city, an overnight flight departing on July 16 may be required to arrive in Guayaquil on July 17.*

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FRIDAY, JULY 18: GUAYAQUIL / BALTRA ISLAND / EMBARK SANTA CRUZ II / MOSQUERA

After breakfast, fly to **Baltra Island** and board ***Santa Cruz II***. Once settled, attend a welcome and safety briefing.

Sail to **Mosquera Islet**, a small volcanic uplift located between Baltra and North Seymour Islands that features a long and narrow sandbank surrounded by lava reefs.

On approach, view the perfect rookery of young sea lions lounging on the soft white sands. After a wet landing, observe the sea lion colonies and gain insight into the fragile marine and terrestrial ecosystems of the Galápagos. Casually walk the flat sandy dunes and witness shorebirds, herons, lava gulls, and boobies. Return to the ship for a welcome dinner this evening.

B,L,D

SATURDAY, JULY 19: SAN CRISTÓBAL ISLAND

Disembark at **Puerto Baquerizo Moreno**, San Cristóbal's capital, and venture to the island's southern shore. Discover the **breeding center for highly endangered giant tortoises** at Cerro Colorado. Located amid a fantastic deciduous forest, the breeding center is also home to dozens of bird species, including the island's endemic San Cristóbal mockingbird and San Cristóbal lava lizard.

In the afternoon, journey to the island's eastern tip at **Punta Pitt**, an eroded tuff cone, whose trail provides several spectacular viewpoints of the shoreline. This is the only site in the Galápagos where the three species of boobies—the blue-footed, red-footed, and Nazca—can be found together. You will also find frigate birds and a sea lion colony. Walk or enjoy a ride on a *panga* (dinghy or Zodiac-like vessel) along the coast with opportunities for snorkeling and swimming.

B,L,D





Land Iguana

SUNDAY, JULY 20: SANTA FE ISLAND / SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND

Take a *panga* ride this morning over to **Santa Fe Island's** idyllic sandy-white beach populated by many sea lions. Wander the island's prickly giant pear cactus forest and uncover the land iguana, the largest in the Galápagos. The Galápagos hawk, the Galápagos snake, various finches, and four species of Galápagos mockingbirds are also on display here. Further explore the island via snorkeling and swimming from the *panga*, observing from a glass-bottom boat, or kayaking.

Following lunch, travel to **South Plaza Island**, whose turquoise waters contrast brilliantly with the shoreline's white sand and black lava. Beyond, a carpet of scarlet succulents provides ground cover for a grove of luminescent, green, prickly-pear cacti. Yellow-gray land iguanas sit beneath these, waiting patiently for pears to drop. Unearth sea lion colonies, while frigates, swallow-tailed gulls, and shearwaters glide and play with the thermals. Find Nazca and blue-footed boobies at play, along with red-billed tropicbirds. B,L,D



South Plaza Island

MONDAY, JULY 21: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Cruise to **Puerto Ayora** on **Santa Cruz Island** and visit the **Charles Darwin Research Station's** giant tortoise breeding center. Developed in 1959, the station serves as headquarters for scientific investigation, conservation, and the National Park administration.

Continue to a completely different ecosystem at the island's cooler highlands for lunch. An afternoon exploration of the highlands will introduce you to giant tortoises freely roaming in the wild. Gaze upon a tree tortoise subspecies whose shells display both the saddleback and dome shapes and gain insight into the evolutionary process that molded them into the giant creatures they are today. Darwin's finches and the endemic *Scalesia* trees are found here as well. B,L,D

TUESDAY, JULY 22: ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

Trek to **Española**, the archipelago's oldest island, and begin by visiting unique seabird colonies, including the only nesting site for more than 10,000 Galápagos waved albatrosses, as well as swallow-tailed gulls, and both the blue-footed and Nazca boobies at **Punta Suárez**. Admire Española's famous "blow-hole," where water shoots 75 feet up in the air, and be on the lookout for red-green-black marine iguanas and the nearly 1,500 tortoises that grace the island.

In the afternoon, meander **Gardner Bay's** picture-postcard, white coral beach and the nearby **Osborn Islet** while observing sea lions, mockingbirds, and finches. Delight in snorkeling, swimming, and kayaking. B,L,D

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND / NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND

Observe blue-footed boobies diving into the water, reef sharks, and frigates at **Eden Islet**, located off the coast of Santa Cruz. Snorkel, kayak, or (*weather permitting*) ride in the glass-bottom boat and spot king angelfish, surgeonfish, parrotfish, damselfish, rays, and even sharks.



Blue-footed Booby



After lunch on board, arrive at the island of **North Seymour**, an ornithologist's paradise. This prime marine bird fishing site is adjacent to the nesting site of two frigate bird species, the magnificent and common. All year along the island's south shore, these birds rest on the trees in the Palo Santo forest. Witness the mating dance of the blue-footed boobies and take in spectacular views of the channel. Sea lions, marine iguanas, swallow-tailed gulls, and herons may also grace your visit. This evening, attend a farewell reception and dinner toasting your time aboard *Santa Cruz II*. B,L,D

THURSDAY, JULY 24: BALTRA ISLAND / DISEMBARK / GUAYAQUIL

Conclude your voyage back in Baltra, disembark, and fly to Guayaquil. Before checking back in at the Hotel del Parque, enjoy a comprehensive interaction with the rich culture of Ecuador through a walking tour highlighting some of Guayaquil's most important and impressive landmarks.

That includes the **Crystal Palace**, a handsome steel structure built in 1907 that stands at the southern end of the *malecón*; the exquisitely designed **Moorish Tower**, and the **Governor's Building**, one of the city's most important structures, designed by Francisco Maccaferri with a blend of neoclassical and Baroque styles. Later, gather for a farewell dinner at the hotel. B,L,D

FRIDAY, JULY 25: GUAYAQUIL / RETURN

Board your independent flight home arriving either the same day or a day later. If your flight departs in the late afternoon or evening, day rooms are provided at the Hotel del Parque. B,L

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Whitman College and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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ACCOMMODATIONS



Hotel del Parque Histórico Guayaquil

HOTEL DEL PARQUE HISTÓRICO GUAYAQUIL

Part of the acclaimed Relais & Châteaux group of hotels, Hotel del Parque is set within the Guayaquil Historical Park, a tropical oasis where palm trees and exotic flowers flourish along the Daule River. This lovingly restored 19th-century property combines history and elegance. Enjoy its elegant Ecuadorian furnishings, stunning marble bathrooms, and free Wi-Fi. Dine at a riverfront restaurant offering fresh seafood. Enjoy a massage or beauty treatments in a unique setting inside the bell tower, with wooden beams from the original Gothic chapel.



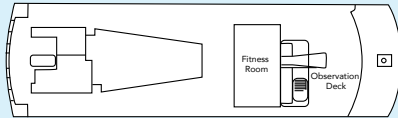
Santa Cruz II

SANTA CRUZ II

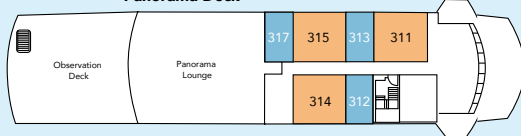
As the *Santa Cruz II* gracefully sails along the azure waters of the Galápagos Islands, it offers (a maximum of 100) travelers an unparalleled blend of luxury and adventure. With its sleek design and modern amenities, this deluxe vessel provides the perfect base for exploring the wonders of the archipelago. Travelers can relax on spacious decks while taking in panoramic views of the volcanic landscapes and diverse wildlife. The ship's expert crew ensures a seamless journey, while knowledgeable naturalist guides offer insightful commentary on the unique ecosystems and species that inhabit these pristine islands.

SANTA CRUZ II

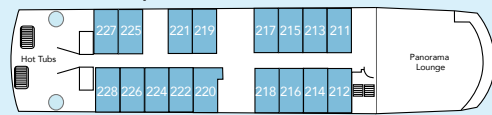
Sky Deck



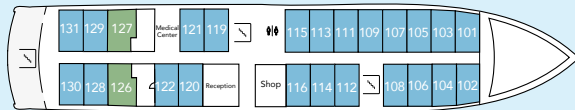
Panorama Deck



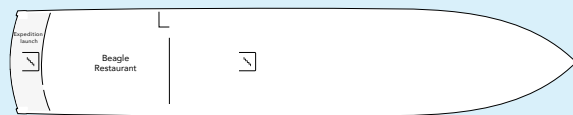
Expedition Deck



Horizon Deck



Ocean Deck



Frigate bird, photo by Andreas Ballesteros



WHITMAN COLLEGE GLORIOUS GALÁPAGOS JULY 17 – 25, 2025 RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944; email: trips@arrangementsabroad.com; fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

CRUISE RATES

Cabins	Double	Single	Child*
312, 313, 317, 211 to 218, 219 to 222, 224 to 228, 101 to 109, 111 to 116, 119 to 122, 128 to 131	\$9,499	\$12,999	—

Explorer Cabins. Large windows; double bed (optional twin). 163 sq. ft

126 & 127	\$11,499	—	\$4,899
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Explorer Family Cabins. Large windows; double bed (optional twin); sofa bed, suitable for a child under 12 years of age. 192 sq. ft

311, 314 & 315	\$14,099	—	\$4,899
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Darwin Suites. Two large windows; double bed (optional twin); sofa bed, suitable for a child under 12 years of age. 325 sq. ft

* Child rate is for kids under 12 years of age at the time of sailing, sharing with two other full fare paying adults. The minimum age to participate in this program is 6 years old (at the time of sailing.)

RATES INCLUDE

- Two nights accommodations at Hotel del Parque Histórico Guayaquil and six nights cabin accommodations aboard *Santa Cruz II*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; thoughtfully selected wines and beer with onboard lunches and dinners; complimentary open bar aboard *Santa Cruz II* throughout the cruise (including all standard spirits/excluding premium spirits)
- Galápagos National Park admission fee
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Round-trip, economy-class flights (Guayaquil-Baltra-Guayaquil)
- Airport/hotel/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuities

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Santa Cruz II cabin preference (1) _____ (2) _____

I wish to share a cabin with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad)

Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date